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SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO KIM KYONG-UK'S CHARGES
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SUMMARY: KOREAN NEWSPAPERS TODAY CARRY ACCOUNTS OF EX-KCIA DIRECTOR KIM KYONG-UK'S INTERVIEW, AND FIRST LOCAL REACTIONS. IN CONTRAST TO SUPPRESSION EXERCISED ON FIRST REPORTS OF PAK TONG-SON CASE, ROK HAS ALLOWED DIRECT, IMMEDIATE AND HEAVY LOCAL COVERAGE OF STORY. END SUMMARY
1. ON JUNE 8, KOREAN PRESS CARRIED FIVE-COLUMN-SQUARE FRONT PAGE STORIES ON APPEARANCE IN JUNE 5 NEW YORK TIMES (NYT) OF INTERVIEW WITH KIM KYONG-UK, ONE OF TEN MAJOR FIGURES IN 1961 COUP AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF KOREAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (KCIA) (FROM 1963-1969) WHO SLIPPED OFF TO US IN APRIL 1973. FIRST IN CLUSTER OF STORIES WITH PHOTO IS HAPTONG ITEM DATELINED NEW YORK, NOTING NYT REPORT THAT KIM SAID PAK TONG-SON WAS KCIA AGENT DURING KIM'S TENURE" AND I CONTROLLED HIM" AND WASHINGTON
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POST FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE JUNE 6 THAT KIM HAS PROVIDED FBI INFORMATION O N
PAK TONG-SON CASE SINCE OCTOBER 1975. USIS REPORTS HAPTONG ITEM, DREW HEAVILY
ON POST ARTICLE, EMPHASIZING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN KIM'S STORIES TO FBI AND NYT, BUT WAS SURPRISINGLY FRANK IN INCLUDING, FOR INSTANCE, MENTION OF HAN PYONG-GI'S CONTROL OF KCIA AGENTS IN U.S. ALL SPECIFIC MENTION OF PRESIDENT PAK WAS DELETED. SECOND ITEM QUOTES HONG SON-P'IL, SPOKESMAN OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION (MCPI) TO EFFECT THAT SUCH REPORTS "TOTALLY FALSE AND NOT WORTH INDIVIDUAL COMMENT" AND THAT KIM DI "NOT HESITATE TO BETRAY OUR COUNTRY." OTHER ITEMS DISPLAY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON'S DENIAL THAT HE INTRODUCED PAK TONG-SON TO PRESIDENT PAK AND GIVE BACKGROUND ON KIM'S CAREER, POINTING OUT THAT KIM SENT HIS FAMILY ABROAD FIRST BEFORE GOING TO THE U.S. HIMSELF ON HIS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. THAT HE LIVES IN A $230,000 HOUSE IN NEW JERSEY AND REFUSED ALL INTERVIEWS THROUGH THE SPRING OF 1976 AND (HAN GUK ILBO)THAT HE HAS
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ACQUIRED U.S. CITIZENSHIP.
2. EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED SO FAR ONLY IN KYONGHYANG SINMUN AND CHOSON ILBO, WITH ALTTER PARTICULARLY VIOLENT IN ITS ATTACK ON KIM: "A MAN WIDELY KNOWN FOR HIS WILFUL ABUSES OF POWER" (AS KCIA DIRECTOR), ONE WHO "CARRIED A LARGE AMOUNT OF COLLARS OUT OF THE COUNTRY," AND ONE WHO "BASED HIS SENSE OF VALUES EXCLUSIVELY ON HIS OWN LIFE AND PROMOTION AND INSISTED ON BEING AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING". EDITORIAL CONTINUES IN DISTINCTLY DISGRUNTLED VEIN, CHASTIZING U.S. FOR ITS "CRITICAL AND INSULTING" ATTITUDE TOWARD ROK AND ASKING IF U.S. IS "PLAYGROUND FOR FILTHY KOREANS."
3. MOST GOSSIP COLUMNS QUOTE REACTION OF VARIOUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN AGAINST KIM'S STATEMENTS. CONFUSION REIGNS AS TO KIM'S STATUS IN U.S., WITH JUNGHOE ASSEMBLYMAN O CHONG-GUN QUOTED BY TONGA ILBO AS SAYING "I UNDERSTAND HE HELD THAT INTERVIEW TO SOLVE IS STATUS PROBLEM. AS HE IS NOT A UMS. CITIZEN
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AND HIS KOREAN PASSPORT WILL SOON EXPIRE." (OTHER STORIES, EVEN IN TONGA, NOTE KIM BECAME PERMANENT RESIDENT IN SPRING OF 1974).

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